



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/)

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Contact: Heather Lombardini  
(517) 373-1707

## **Senator Toy announces that Senate will act swiftly to fund Michigan National Guard hurricane disaster relief**

**LANSING** – The Michigan Senate has taken prompt action to support the Michigan National Guard's efforts to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina by agreeing to authorize money for the operations, announced Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, today.

The Senate plans to vote on authorizing \$1 million to deploy members of the Michigan National Guard to parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, which were devastated by the powerful hurricane that struck earlier in the week. Parts of New Orleans remain underwater because of breached levees.

"You need only to turn on the television or radio to know that the devastation to this part of our country has been so great," Toy said. "Our budget may be tight, but when your neighbors are in need, you help them. That's just what Americans do."

The Guard will initially deploy 500 troops by Friday, Sept. 2 possibly using \$3 million in federal funds.

Hurricane Katrina hit land early Monday and is one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. In Katrina's aftermath, reported loss of life is rising every day and property damage in affected areas is enormous.

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